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and an interior region, wherein the perimeter area is relieved such that the edge contour is below the interior region.

3. ~~6~~ (Amended) A laminated material according to claim ~~4~~¹, wherein the surface is polygon shaped.

4. ~~7~~ (Amended) A laminated material according to claim ~~4~~¹, wherein the surface is rectangular.

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5. ~~8~~ (Amended) A laminated material according to claim ~~4~~¹, wherein the surface is square.

6. ~~9~~ (Amended) A laminated material according to claim ~~4~~¹, wherein the surface is formed from a [top] cellulose sheet having a visual pattern that imitates another product.

7. ~~10~~ (Amended) A laminated material according to claim ~~4~~¹, wherein the surface is mechanically formed with a surface texture that varies in accordance with the visual pattern.

8. ~~11~~ (Amended) A laminated material according to claim ~~4~~¹, wherein the surface visually depicts wood.

9. ~~12~~ (Amended) A laminated material according to claim ~~4~~¹, wherein the surface visually depicts ceramic.

10. 13. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 4, wherein the surface visually depicts stone.

11. 14. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 4, wherein the product is a board.

12. 15. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 4, wherein the product is a floorboard.

13. 16. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 4, wherein the product is a wall panel.

14. 17. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 4, wherein the product further includes sidewalls that extend down from said edge contours to a rim.

15. 18. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 18, wherein the rim mates with another laminated material product.

16. 20. (Amended) A laminated material comprising cellulose sheets impregnated with a polymer resin that are pressed and cut to form a product, wherein the product includes a surface formed from a cellulose sheet having a visual pattern that imitates another product, and wherein the surface is mechanically formed to have a surface texture that varies in accord with the visual pattern.

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18. 21. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 20, wherein the surface is polygon shaped.

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19. 22. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 21, wherein the surface is rectangular.

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20. 23. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 21, wherein the surface is square.

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21. 24. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 20, wherein the surface visually depicts wood.

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22. 25. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 20, wherein the surface visually depicts ceramic.

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23. 26. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 20, wherein the surface visually depicts stone.

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24. 27. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 20, wherein the product is a board.

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25. 28. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 27, wherein the product is a floorboard.

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26. 29. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim 20, wherein the product is a wall panel.

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27. 30. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim ¹⁷20, wherein the product further includes sidewalls that extend down from the surface to a rim.

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29. 32. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim ²⁷30, wherein the rim mates with another product.

30. 35. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim ¹⁷20, wherein the surface includes a perimeter area having an edge contour and an interior region, wherein the perimeter area is relieved such that the edge contour is below the interior region.

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35. 38. (Amended) A laminated material comprised of polymer impregnated sheets of which a polymer-impregnated sheet includes a visual pattern, wherein the polymer-impregnated sheet is embossed in registration with the visual pattern.

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42. 45. (Amended) A laminated material according to claim ³⁷40, wherein the surface includes a perimeter area having an edge contour and an interior region, wherein the perimeter area is relieved such that the edge contour is below the interior region.

Please add new claims 50-52 as follows:

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47. 50. (New) A laminated material for floors comprising polymer impregnated sheets of which a polymer impregnated sheet includes a visual pattern, the laminated material having a surface with texture-relief corresponding to the visual pattern, the texture-relieve corresponding to the visual pattern providing visual and tactile feeling of a natural product.

48. 51. (New) A laminated material according to claim ⁴⁷50, wherein the natural product includes ceramic.

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49. 52. (New) A laminated material according to claim 50, wherein the natural product includes wood.

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully thanked for the courtesies extended during the examiner interview of November 27, 2001. At that time, the inventive embossed in registration feature of the present invention was discussed as well as the inventive edge contour feature of the present invention.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the disclosure; rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and rejected claims 1-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over "admissions of prior art on page 1 of the disclosure in view of Liardet.

By this Amendment, Applicant withdraws claims 1-3 without prejudice and adds new claims 50-52. Accordingly, claims 4-52 are pending in this application.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the disclosure, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider and enter the Substitute Specification attached to this Amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that the Substitute Specification addresses the informalities and no new matter has been added. A marked-up version is also attached.

In response to the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and for the sole purpose of expediting the prosecution of this application, Applicant withdraws claims 1-3. However, Applicant reserves the right to continue prosecuting the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application.